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METAL WORK FOR THE HALL.

THE furnishing of the house is not now confined to the cabinet maker and upholsterer. Little by little, those who devote their energies to the production of decorative articles in metal have won a right to be considered in the

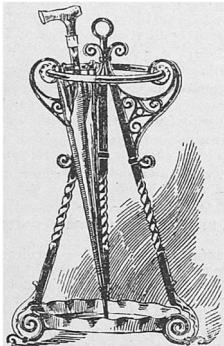


Fig. 1. A Practical and Artistic Umbrella Stand.

furnishing of most apartments of the home; and wrought iron, brass and copper play an important part in the higher and middle walks of our craft. In all ages iron has been employed more than any other metal by architects for grilles and similar work, which preference is, of course, accounted for by the fact that it is comparatively easy to work, the supply is abundant, and, in consequence, the material is cheaper than its competitors.

It is not to be wondered at that in days gone by notable artists should have chosen iron for the carrying out of their plans, for its durability was as strong a guaranty as could be obtained that their ideas would be perpetuated and handed down for the admiration of succeeding generations. While, however, the hackneyed phrase, "as hard as iron," would have rather a charm for the master in his craft, it appeals somewhat differently to the incompetent workman. One can comfort one's self that unsatisfactory works in

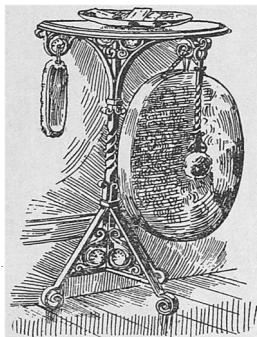


Fig. 2. Combined Hall Table and Gong Stand.

wood must, from the very nature of the material, succumb to the devastating influences of time; but an atrocity executed in iron is blessed or cursed with a longevity which, in such a case, is anything but desirable. It is, therefore, important that the metal worker should select well his patterns and put his best work into them; for, if he do not so, he will create long-lived witnesses to his bad taste and incompetency. At the period of the Renaissance artists produced what were truly marvels of grace, elegance and ingenuity in wrought iron, and to-day the standard of work in the showrooms of many firms who confine themselves to that branch of our art industries is high, and merits all commendation.

In this branch of work, as in every other, the designer and craftsman are often hard pressed

for new and salable patterns. It is not that they lack the ability to originate them, but that the constant rush, consequent upon our nineteenth-century supply and demand, leaves them but scant time or opportunity to evolve fresh ideas. We shall, therefore, month by month, offer a few suggestions in this most important and ever-developing branch of art work, trusting that they may prove acceptable and, what is more important, profitable to a large number of our readers.

It is on the furnishing of the hall that our suggestions this month bear, and that is a portion of the house to which the application of wrought-iron is more than ordinarily suitable. It frequently happens that the hall of a suburban residence is of such dimensions as to make the introduction of a hall-table and stand impracticable. In such a case, the furnisher is compelled to look about him for something else to

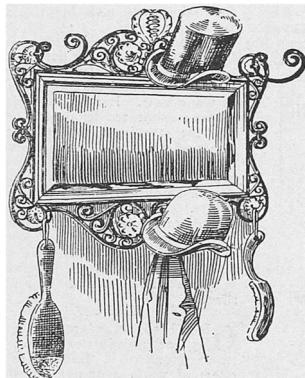


Fig. 3. Hall Mirror and Hat Rack.

supplant the necessarily bulky wood-work; and wrought-iron offers itself as the very thing.

Where space is limited, it is advisable to make the best possible use of it; and the treatment of corners is, therefore, an important point. It is for this reason that the gong-stand (Fig. 4) has been designed to fill a corner, for in that situation it can be made to serve the dual purposes of gong-stand and table without occupying any unnecessary room. This combination is somewhat original and thoroughly satisfactory, as in no way does the unification of the two articles cause any conflict; the requirements of both are amply provided for. The design is not too elaborate; and worked out lightly, the rosettes

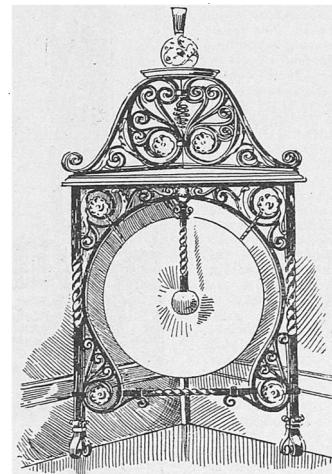
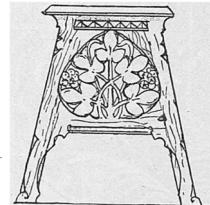


Fig. 4. Corner Gong Stand in Brass.

being in copper, or copper and brass, the result would be attractive.

Fig. 1 is an alternative to the stereotyped cast umbrella-stand, and is, in our opinion, preferable thereto. It offers no serious difficulties in manufacture, and, while being decorative, would occupy but small space. The rosettes, leafwork round the scrolls, and well, should, as in the last case, be of copper, and the copper ring supporting the umbrellas of brass.

Fig. 3, the necessary provision for the support of hats and coats is brought into consideration



Escabeau in Carved Wood. By Emil Causé.

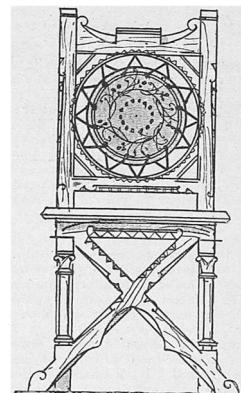
in a simple and effective form, combined with all the all-essential "bevelled plate." This arrangement is fitted to answer all the purposes required of it without being cumbersome. Even where the ordinary hall-stand is employed, this handy little wall-bracket might well be used as supplementary accommodation.

Another combination table and gong-stand for the wall is indicated in Fig. 2, wherein is included a place for the reception of brushes.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

BY JAMES THOMSON.

STAINED floors gain in favor, nowhere are they more fitting than in sleeping rooms where sweetness of atmosphere is essential. One of the best known stains, cheap and permanent, is permanganate of potash. It not only stains wood a lasting brown color but it acts as a purifier and disinfectant as well. Use an ounce of the crystals to a gallon of boiling water, stirring well, lay on quickly with a large,



Chair in Carved Wood. By Emil Causé.

flat, painter's brush, working with the grain of the wood, never across it. A smaller brush will be useful for corners and crevices. To protect the handle, a pair of rubber or heavy gloves should be used; stains, however, may be removed from the flesh by the use of lemon juice. Should the color not be sufficiently dark another application may be made, the addition of some Vandyke brown or brown umber deepening the tone and filling the grain.

After the staining is effected, linseed oil can be applied, wiping dry with cloth. More than one application of the oil will be an improvement. One may leave the floor as finished at this point, or further polish it with beeswax and turpentine, or the final coating may consist of

shellac or varnish put on evenly with a brush. The varnished floor requires to be dusted daily and to be rubbed occasionally with a rag wet with linseed oil and turpentine. While the var-

rinsing with clean water, By washing wood-work in this manner the paint will not be injured and the hands will keep soft and white.

FOR washing Madras curtains without soap, bran water is said to be excellent. The proportions used are about a pintful of bran to a wash boiler full of water. Boil half an hour, stain part of it and use to wash the curtains, letting what remains continue to boil, then strain and use for rinsing water. Shake wrinkles out of curtains as much as possible when hanging up to dry. Beeswax and salt will make irons as smooth and clean as glass, provided that they are not too much rusted. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for the purpose, and rub first with the wax rag and then scour with a cloth sprinkled with salt.

TEA acts as a strong detergent, cleansing paint from all impurities and making it look as when new. It is a good plan to save spent tea leaves for this purpose, steeping them for half an hour and straining through a sieve. All varnished, painted surfaces are improved by it, but it should not be employed on unvarnished paints. The tea leaves are also useful for spreading on carpeted floors when sweeping; sprinkled around when in a slightly wet state will help to gather the dust and brighten the colors at the same time.

GREEN copperas is an article of great value in the home; a pound of it dissolved in a quart of water will destroy the foulest odors. Wherever there are offensive smells or gases, sprinkle it about, and in a short time the nuisance will vanish. Use it freely in such emergencies and it will purify the atmosphere of the room.

SILVERWARE will tarnish in time if not continually brightened. The tarnishing may be prevented by the use of collodion dissolved in alcohol. Apply with a soft brush. The resultant coating is quite invisible, but protects the surface from contact with the dampness and gases of the atmosphere. Dipping the article in hot water will remove the film at any time.

OXALIC acid dissolved in water and applied with a brush will make unvarnished rattan furniture as presentable as when new. It is a poison and should be used carefully, but it is a great dirt eraser. This acid, or the juice of lemon, will effectively efface stains of ink, etc., from the hands. After using rinse thoroughly in clean water.

Ink spots on polished woodwork can be removed by the use of caustic soda or oxalic

acid. When the stain is on the surface of the polish it can be taken out by a little water slightly impregnated with the soda. When the stain has entered deeply into the wood diluted oxalic acid will erase it better than anything else. The wood will, in such a case, require to be refinished, as the polish will be gone after this treatment. Any woodwork that has been *untouched* by shellac or varnish, no matter how stained or dirty it may be, can be made beautifully fresh and clean by an application of oxalic acid dilution.

Clear boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains.

Ripe tomatoes will remove ink and other stains from white cloth, also from the hands.

Blue ointment and kerosene mixed in equal proportions is an effective remedy for bugs.

Cool rain water and soda will efface machine grease from washable fabrics.

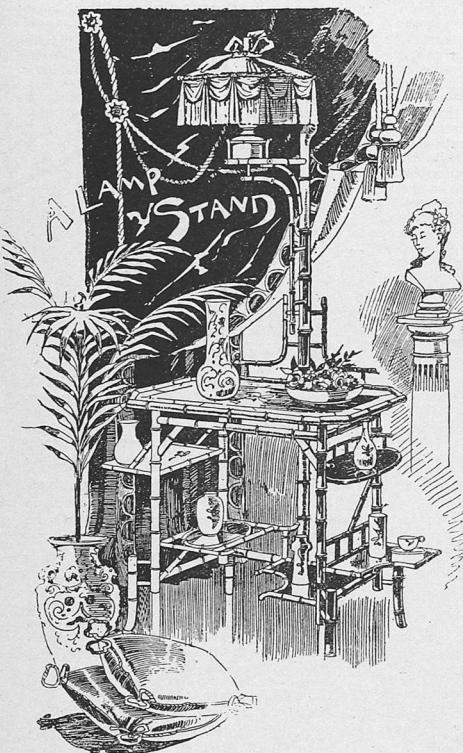
SPECIAL EFFECTS IN BAMBOO FURNITURE.

THE manufacturers of bamboo furniture have of late created some delightful specialties that have the combined merit of being at once objects of utility and artistic merit. The lampstand illustrated herewith sufficiently explains itself, and anything more artistic in the line of summer furnishings it would be impossible to conceive.

Another manufacturer has produced a bamboo portico or archway for interiors that possesses the merit of novelty and daintiness.

DECORATIVE NOTE.

A SIMPLY furnished, but very pretty dining room has the walls tinted an old-gold color. A dado of old-gold-colored matting is a yard deep, and is put in with gilt nails put very near together. The floor has a matting of peacock-blue ground in which is a cross bar of old-gold. The sideboard, chairs and tables are of yellow maple, and there are two corner cupboards with



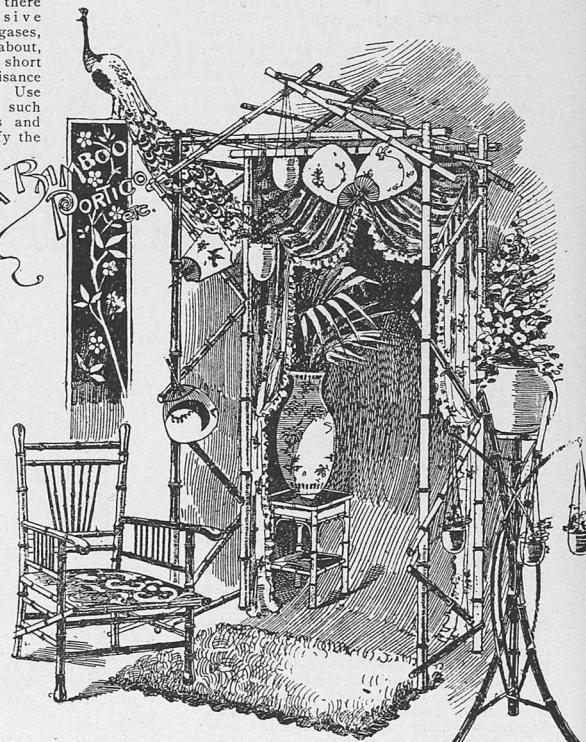
A Bamboo Lamp Stand.

nished floors require less care than the waxed, they are apt to wear out and look shabby in spots and are not so easily renewed. Wax suitable for floors is of the consistency of butter and is applied with a stiff brush or piece of flannel. It is well rubbed into the grain and polished with a coarse cloth or scrubbing brush. There are weighted brushes with long handles sold for the purpose and the wax can also be procured ready for use from dealers in paints and makers of inlaid flooring.

WHEN the color has been taken out of silks by fruit stains ammonia will generally restore the color. Should the stain be from an acid, give an after application of chloroform, which will in nearly every instance prove effective.

To brighten the colors in carpet wipe with warm water in which a few drops of ammonia have been poured. It is also excellent for other household purposes, such as taking out grease spots, using a weak solution; afterwards laying a piece of white paper over the spot and ironing with a hot iron. Use it for cleaning windows—one or two tablespoonfuls added to the water will be more effective than soap. Ammonia is also useful for brightening silver ornaments and mountings; saturate a woolen cloth and apply.

WHEN the painted woodwork in the home, particularly around the handles of doors, becomes dirty and badly stained, it is often well nigh impossible to remove the marks with cold water without the use of soap. When this is the case use two tablespoonfuls of pulverized borax to a pail of hot water and wash the paint with it. When soap must be resorted to, rub the soap on the cloth and over the soap sprinkle dry borax, then rub the spots well,



A Bamboo Portico on a Piazza.